

Town of Newport
Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Commissioners
October 15, 2020
7:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Spencer announced that the meeting was in compliance with the Delaware Open Meeting Act.

Attendance: Mayor Michael Spencer, Vice Mayor John Joswick, Commissioner Flo Czerwinski (late), Commissioner Carol Ann Gretz, Police Chief Mark Wohner, Town Manager Wendy King, and Solicitor N. Christopher Griffiths. Commissioner Michele MacDonald was absent

Minutes from September 17, 2020, meeting will be approved in November when there will be a quorum of attendees.

Town Manager's Report – Speed bumps on W. Ayre Street were installed. Resident concerned about height of center speed bump, so Advanced Paving went back out to evaluate and determined height met state specifications. Board of Adjustment vacancy to be announced in an upcoming newsletter. CARES Act grant application was submitted. Budget line item overages were outlined – legal, police fuel, tree work, workers compensation and liability insurance premiums were paid in full. A for-sale sign was posted at 309 E. Justis Street.

Commissioner Gretz asked about the tree work. Maintenance Supervisor Harvey responded with locations of trees that were removed.

Maintenance Report – Prices are being obtained for track at Ella Johnson Park. Streets will be swept prior to the holidays, leaves will be picked up on Mondays and Tuesdays. Storm sewers were cleaned prior to storm. Commissioner Gretz wanted to advise that her storm sewer was not cleaned and was advised that her car was parked at the grate and she said she would move her car to have it cleaned.

Police Chief's Report – Chief Wohner wanted to provide updates from a previous meeting – foot patrols were conducted at the apartments and in Stonehurst, officer collision, property damage on corner of Augustine and Justis. Contacted DelDOT to ask if they could flip the street light to illuminate Justis Street and to have the pylons reinstalled and bring the signs back. He will also address the traffic light at Justis and James since the Belvedere ramp is closed to keep traffic moving. He will be participating in a meeting to discuss the impact that the 95 project will have on Newport. State accreditation process – will be completed in about 3-4 months.

Commissioner Gretz wanted to make a comment that cars travelling down the wrong way happens all day long and that a tractor trailer came down and made a left onto the ramp at the Exxon and constantly making the turn at her house and asked about the signs to be placed on her corner. She wanted to advise that they are putting new telephone poles up – one at the Masonic Hall and one in the Veteran's Memorial Park. There was a question about if it was 5G and she was told it was not 5G. Vince Jacoano from Delmarva will be contacted for clarification.

Alderman's Report - \$31,818 in court fines.

Code Enforcement – There has been an upswing in home maintenance projects, so licensing and permitting are being confirmed. Parking on W. Ayre Street is out of hand. Mayor Spencer suggested it be watched by code enforcement and police department.

Solicitor's Report – Owner of 309 E. Justis Street was served with complaint, has hired an attorney and asked for an extension to answer. He wants to renovate/sell property and meet with the town to go over their plans. One employment issue, FOIA request, answered a few questions for police department, upcoming Executive Session.

Mayor's Comments – He asked Mr. Harvey if the curb repairs were complete because at some point, it needs to be noted that any if alterations to the space between the curb and sidewalk takes place (ie, pavers, bricks, etc.), the homeowner would be responsible for any repairs necessary to the curb. It would be a change to the town charter and it is preferred that all changes be made at one time. Nothing can happen until January

Public Comment:

Bill Lower, 14 N. Walnut Street, wanted to be sure that leaf collection schedule would be noted in a newsletter and possibly extending the collection post-Thanksgiving because many leaves still have not fallen.

Stephanie Banks, 230 W. Ayre Street, Paper street should be closed off at the end of W. Ayre Street because trucks/cars going through to Silview. Fence is going up soon.

Correspondence: Delaware Kids Fund Campout for Coats.

No Old Business.

No New Business.

Mayor Spencer made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Czerwinski seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.